

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
Filing Date: September 4, 2003
Docket No.: 577-520 CON
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 14-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 2, 10-13 are canceled. Claims 1,5 and 14 have been amended and new claims 18-20 have been added without adding new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 7-9 are indicated as being allowed by the Examiner. This determination is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim Objections

Claims 2 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and the limitations of claim 2 have been included in the amended independent claims 1 and 14.

Claim 5 has been amended and rewritten in independent form including all of its own limitations and limitations of claim 1. Since claim 5 has been amended to place in condition for allowance, Applicants believe that this objection to claim 5 is obviated.

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35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (U.S. Patent 5,103,068) in view of Park (U.S. Patent 5,936,200).

As stated above, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to add the limitations of objected claim 2, which has been canceled. Thus, this rejection of claims 1 and 14 and claims depending therefrom is deemed obviated.

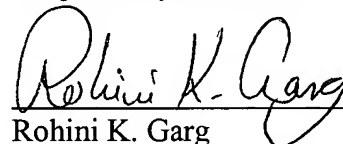
Additionally, claims 18, 19 and 20 have been added to the present application. Newly added independent claim 18 includes the allowable subject matter of originally filed claim 5 and the subject matter of the previously presented base claim 1. Newly added claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Thus, these newly added claims 18-20 are also considered to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicants deems this application, including claims 1, 3-9 and 14-20, is in condition for allowance and solicits such action. In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicants' agent respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rohini K. Garg", is written over a horizontal line.

Rohini K. Garg
Registration No.: 45,272
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700